



# GURU GOBIND SINGH

THE TENTH SIKH GURU

Vol 588 |

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# GURU GOBIND SINGH



IN 1675 IN A SMALL TOWN,  
ARNANDPUR, ON THE FOOT-  
HILLS OF THE HIMALAYAS,  
A NINE-YEAR OLD BOY,  
GOBIND RAI, WAS PLAY-  
ING WITH HIS FRIENDS.



SUDDENLY HIS OLD UNCLE CAME  
RUNNING UP.

GOBIND, COME HERE! YOUR  
MOTHER IS CALLING YOU.  
WE HAVE SOME BAD  
NEWS FOR YOU.



YOUR FATHER  
IS DEAD.

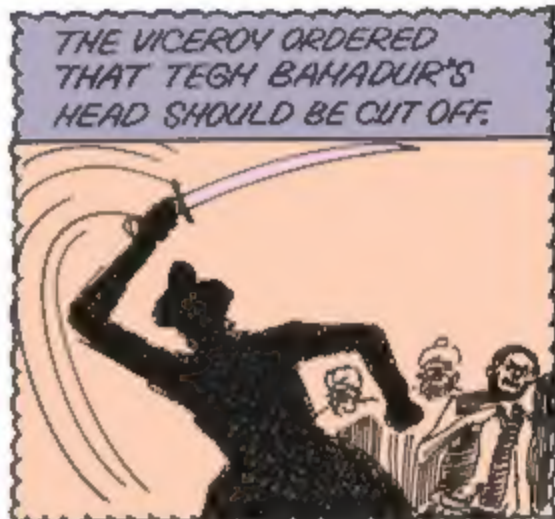
HE DIED A  
HERO'S DEATH  
FOR HIS  
PEOPLE.



HE WAS CAPTURED  
BY THE MUGHAL  
TROOPS AND BROUGHT  
BEFORE EMPEROR  
AURANGZEB.













GURU GOBIND'S FAME SPREAD. SOON SIKHS BEGAN COMING TO HIM WITH OFFERINGS.

LET THOSE WHO  
COME TO ME BRING  
GIFTS OF ARMS AND  
HORSES.



I SHALL DRIVE THE TURKS  
AND MUGHALS OUT OF OUR  
MOTHERLAND. OUR WAR-  
CRY WILL BE "SAT SRI AKAL"—  
GOD IS TRUTH. WHO WILL  
JOIN ME IN  
THE DHARMA-  
YUDDHA?



THE MUGHALS  
ARE THE  
MIGHTIEST  
POWER IN  
ASIA. HOW CAN  
WE FIGHT  
AGAINST  
THEM?

I WILL TEACH  
THE SPARROW  
TO HUNT  
THE HAWK.

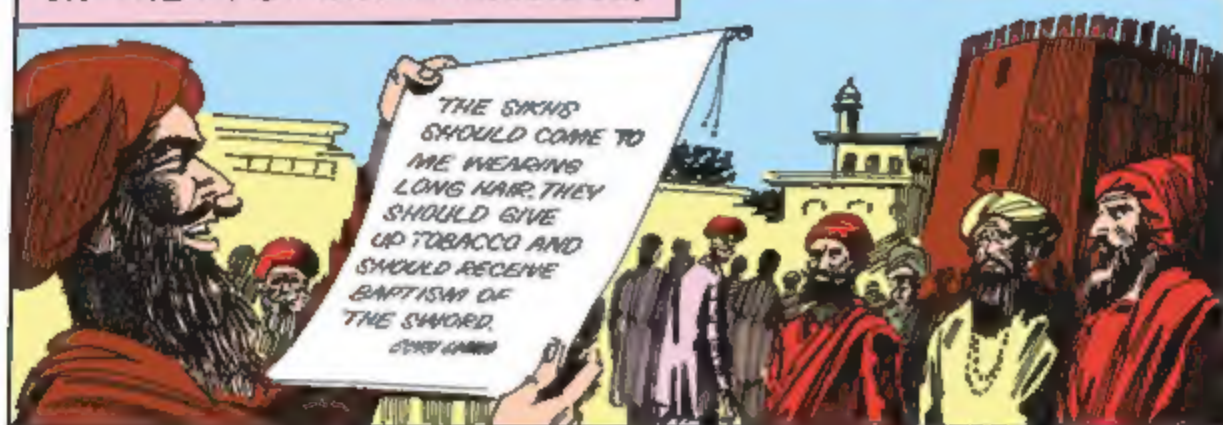








EARLY IN 1699 GURU GOBIND ASKED HIS SIKHS TO ASSEMBLE ON THE FIRST DAY OF BAISAHHI.



ON THAT DAY A LARGE NUMBER ASSEMBLED.

I WANT ONE HUMAN HEAD



THERE WAS A STUNNED SILENCE, THEN A YOUNG MAN GOT UP.

MY HEAD IS FOR YOU, MY GURU!

THEN COME WITH ME!





WHEN GURU GOBIND REAPPEARED,  
HIS SWORD WAS  
STAINED RED  
WITH BLOOD.

I WANT  
ONE MORE  
HUMAN  
HEAD

MY HEAD IS  
FOR YOU,  
MY GURU

GURU GOBIND TOOK THE  
SECOND YOUNG MAN INTO  
THE TENT.

WHEN HE RE-  
APPEARED HE  
WAS ALONE  
AND HIS SWORD  
WAS FRESHLY  
STAINED WITH  
BLOOD.

THE SAME HAPPENED WITH THREE OTHER YOUNG MEN WHO  
VOLUNTEERED THEIR LIVES FOR GURU GOBIND.



AFTER THE FIFTH MAN HAD  
DISAPPEARED INTO THE TENT  
AND GURU GOBIND HAD RE-  
APPEARED WITH HIS SWORD  
BLOOD-STAINED, HE AGAIN  
ENTERED THE TENT AND  
THEN RE-EMERGED.

THESE ARE MY BELOVED  
FIVE-MY PANJ PAYARE.  
THEIR FAITH HAS LAID  
THE FOUNDATION OF  
A NEW COMMU-  
NITY- THE  
KHALSA OR  
THE PURE.



THEY ARE ALL  
ALIVE! BUT HOW  
WAS HIS SWORD  
DRIPPING WITH  
BLOOD?

HE WAS  
JUST  
TESTING  
US.



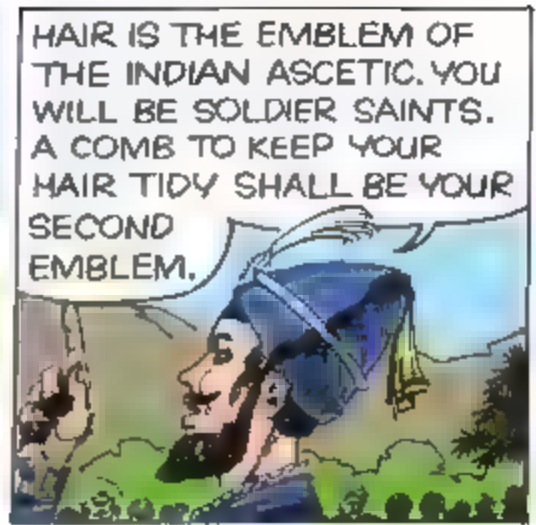
THEN GURU GOBIND ASKED FOR AN  
IRON VESSEL WHICH HE FILLED  
WITH WATER. TO THIS HE ADDED  
SUGAR WHICH HE STIRRED IN WITH  
A DOUBLE-  
EDGED  
DAGGER



THE FIVE DISCIPLES  
WERE GIVEN THIS  
AMRIT.

HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL  
ALL BE KNOWN AS SINGHS  
AND YOU WILL GROW  
YOUR HAIR  
AND BEARD..







HE HAS GIVEN FIVE  
EMBLEMS ALL BEGINNING  
WITH THE LETTER K—  
KESH, KANGHA  
KACCHA, KADA  
AND KIRPAN.

AND  
HE HAS  
GIVEN US  
ONE NAME—  
WE ARE ALL  
SINGHS.



AND REMEMBER  
YOU ARE THE PURE—  
THE KHALSA. NEVER  
RAISE YOUR ARMS  
AGAINST THE WEAK.  
NEVER MOLEST  
A WOMAN.  
REGARD ALL  
HUMAN BEINGS  
AS YOUR  
BROTHERS.



AS YOU HAVE BAPTISED  
US, WE BAPTISE YOU.  
YOU ARE NO LONGER  
GOBIND RAI, BUT  
GOBIND SINGH. THE  
RULES THAT APPLY  
TO US WILL  
APPLY TO YOU.

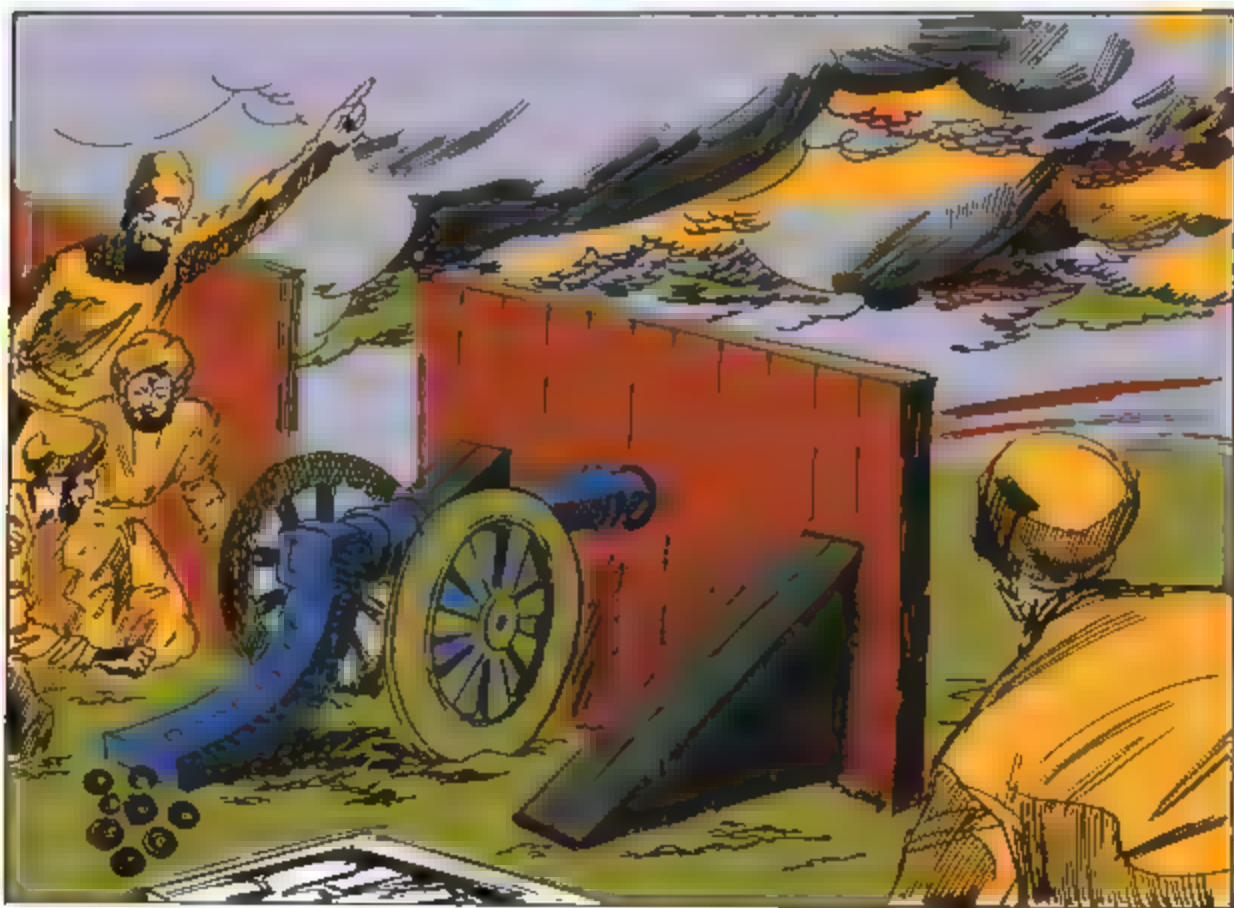
SO BE IT. THE  
GURU IS OF THE  
KHALSA AS MUCH  
AS THE KHALSA  
IS OF THE  
GURU.



SOME TIME LATER, EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED WAZIR KHAN, HIS GOVERNOR IN THE PUNJAB TO DESTROY THE SIKHS AND BRING GOBIND PRISONER.

THE MUGHALS  
ARE SURROUNDING  
ANNANDPUR.

SHUT THE GATES  
OF THE FORT. KEEP  
THE ENEMY AT  
A DISTANCE.





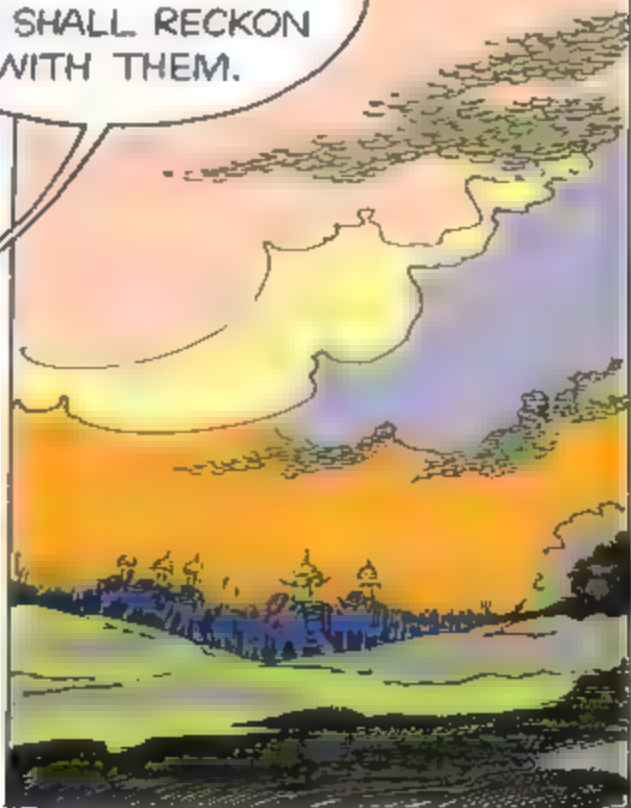
THE SIKHS WILL  
NOT LET OUR MEN  
GET NEAR THE  
WALLS. WHAT SHALL  
WE DO?

WE SHALL PRETEND TO  
ATTACK ANNANDPUR FROM THE  
REAR. MEANWHILE CHARGE THE  
MAIN GATE WITH OUR WAR ELE-  
PHANTS.



THEY ARE  
COMING FROM  
THE OTHER SIDE.  
WHAT SHALL  
WE DO?

LET THEM COME.  
WE SHALL RECKON  
WITH THEM.





THE GATE  
WILL GIVE  
WAY, THE  
MUGHALS  
WILL ENTER  
OUR CITADEL.

THEN WHAT  
ARE YOU  
WAITING  
FOR?



FOR THE GLORY  
OF THE GURU  
AND THE  
KHALSA.



HOW CAN WE FIGHT  
PEOPLE AS  
BRAVE AS  
THESE?

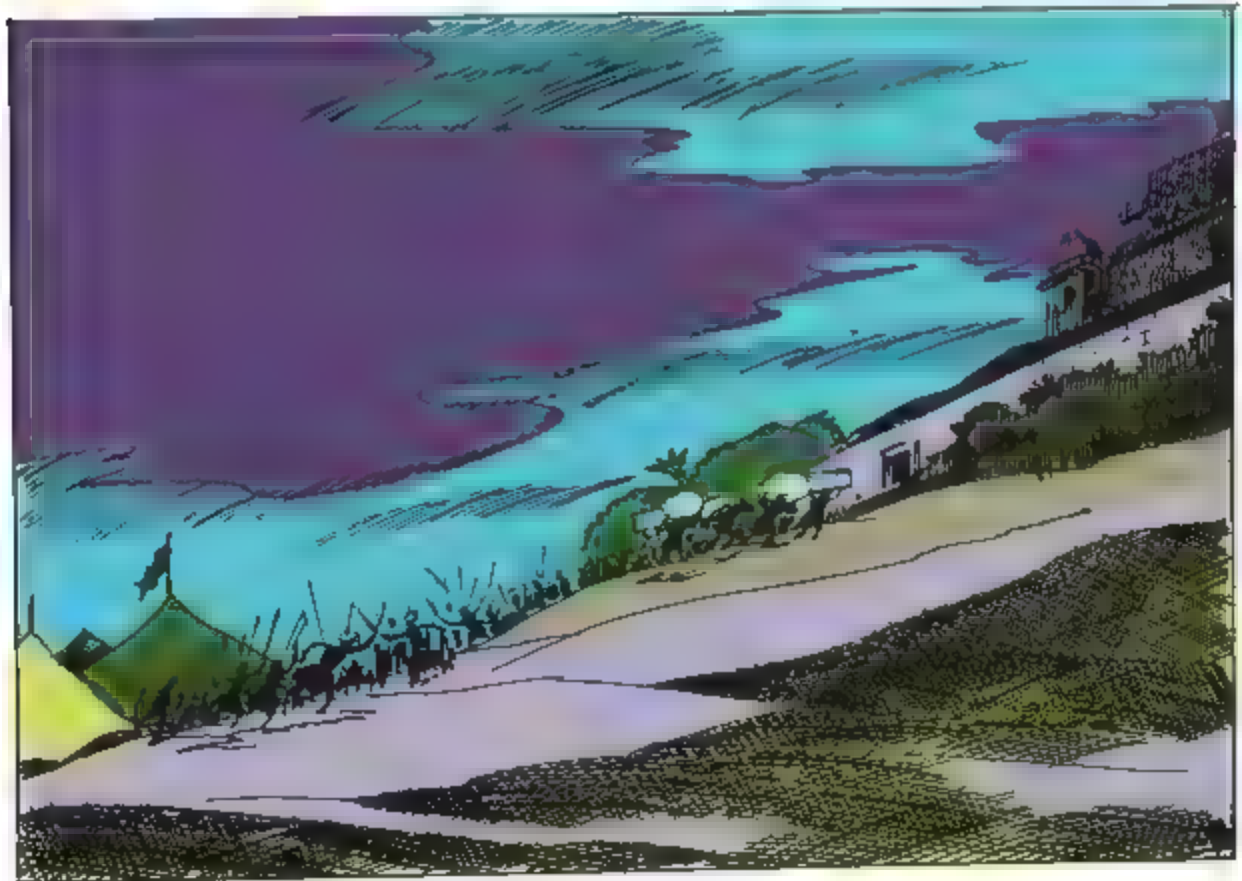
LET  
US WITHDRAW  
TO A SAFE  
DISTANCE AND  
STARVE THEM  
INTO SURREN-  
DERING.





SIRE, THE MUGHALS WON'T FIGHT US BUT WE HAVE FINISHED ALL OUR STOCKS OF FOOD. WE WILL DIE OF HUNGER.

HAVE FAITH! AT NIGHT WHEN THE MUGHALS SLEEP, SEND PARTIES OUT TO GET FOOD. IF YOU ARE AMBUSHED, FIGHT YOUR WAY THROUGH THEM.



THE SIEGE DRAGGED ON FOR SIX LONG MONTHS AND THE EMPEROR WAS FURIOUS. AT LAST ONE OF HIS ABLEST GENERALS, PAINDA KHAN MADE A DECISION.

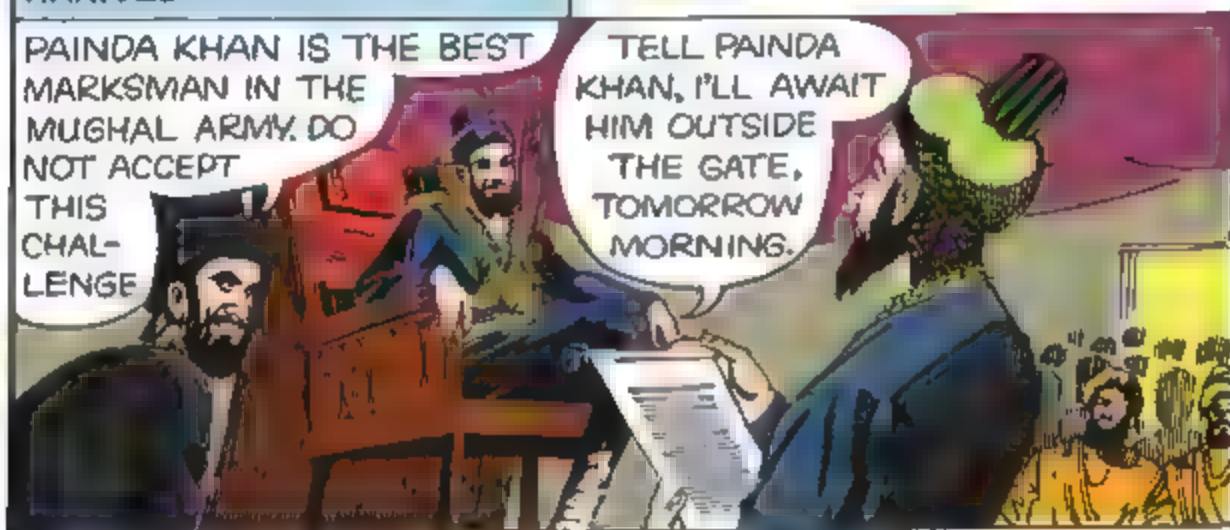
I WILL CHALLENGE GOBIND TO FIGHT ME SINGLE-HANDED TO SETTLE THE ISSUE. SEND AN ENVOY TO HIM.



WHEN THE MUGHAL ENVOY ARRIVED—

PAINDA KHAN IS THE BEST MARKSMAN IN THE MUGHAL ARMY. DO NOT ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE

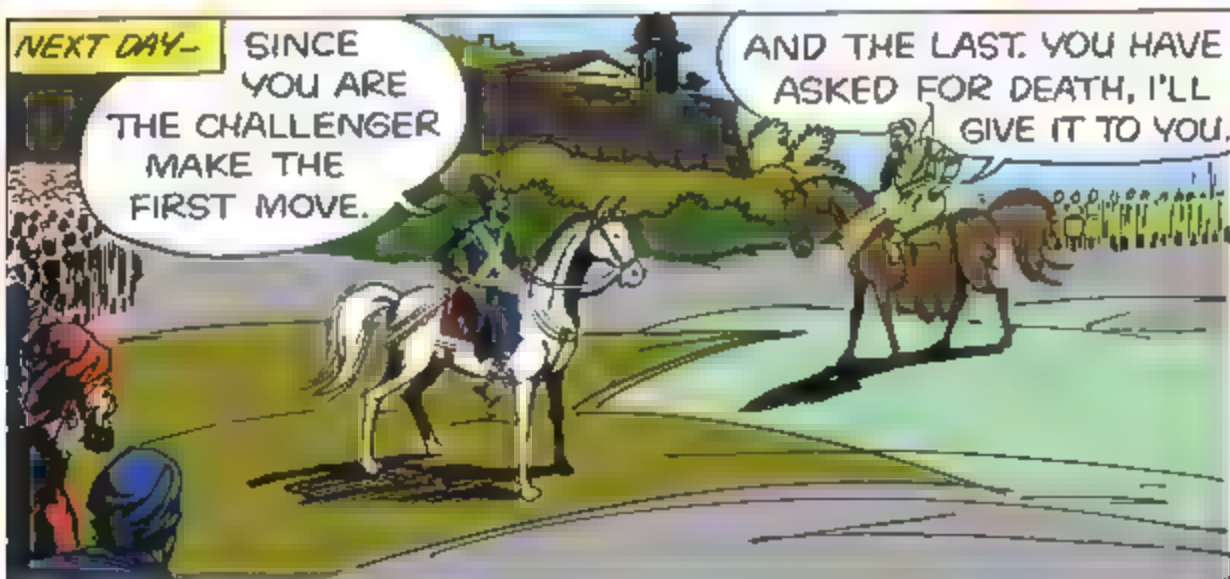
TELL PAINDA KHAN, I'LL AWAIT HIM OUTSIDE THE GATE, TOMORROW MORNING.



NEXT DAY—

SINCE YOU ARE THE CHALLENGER MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

AND THE LAST. YOU HAVE ASKED FOR DEATH, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.







THERE WAS A SHORT INTERLUDE OF PEACE. THEN EMPEROR AURANGZEB ORDERED A FRESH ATTACK ON THE SIKHS.

HOW CAN AN UNTRAINED HANDFUL OF PEASANTS HOLD OUT AGAINST A VAST ARMY OF PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS?

YOUR MAJESTY, WE WILL DEFEAT THE SIKHS!

WE'LL STARVE THEM OUT!

ONE DAY THE SIKHS BROUGHT A MAN NAMED KANHAIYA BEFORE GURU GOBIND SINGH.

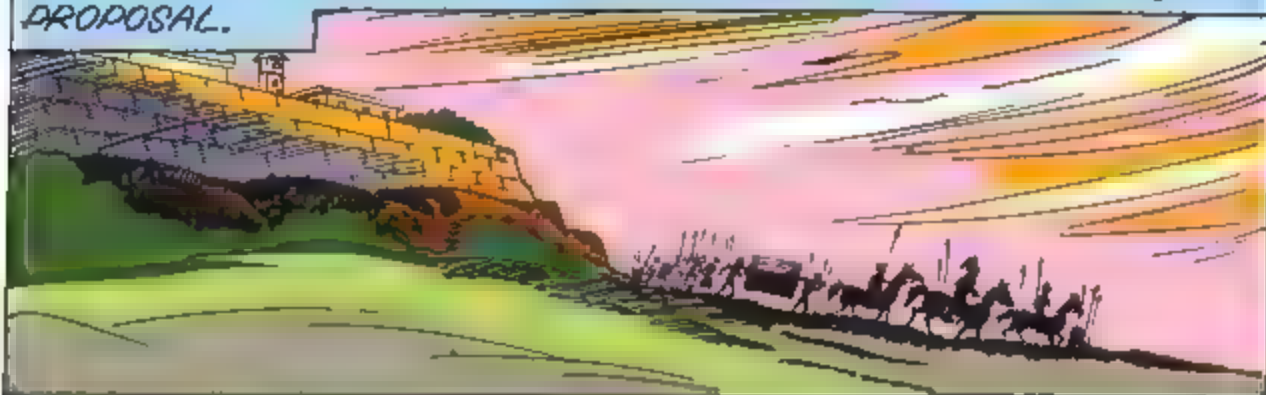
I CAUGHT HIM GIVING THE WOUNDED ENEMIES WATER!

YOU TOLD US TO SERVE ALL THOSE IN NEED.

WELL SAID! YOU HAVE TRULY UNDERSTOOD THE WORD OF THE GURUS!



AT LAST THE MUGHAL GOVERNOR DECLARED THAT IF GURU GOBIND GAVE UP ANNANDPUR FOR A WHILE, HE WOULD LEAVE HIM ALONE AND RETURN THE FORTRESS. GURU GOBIND AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL.

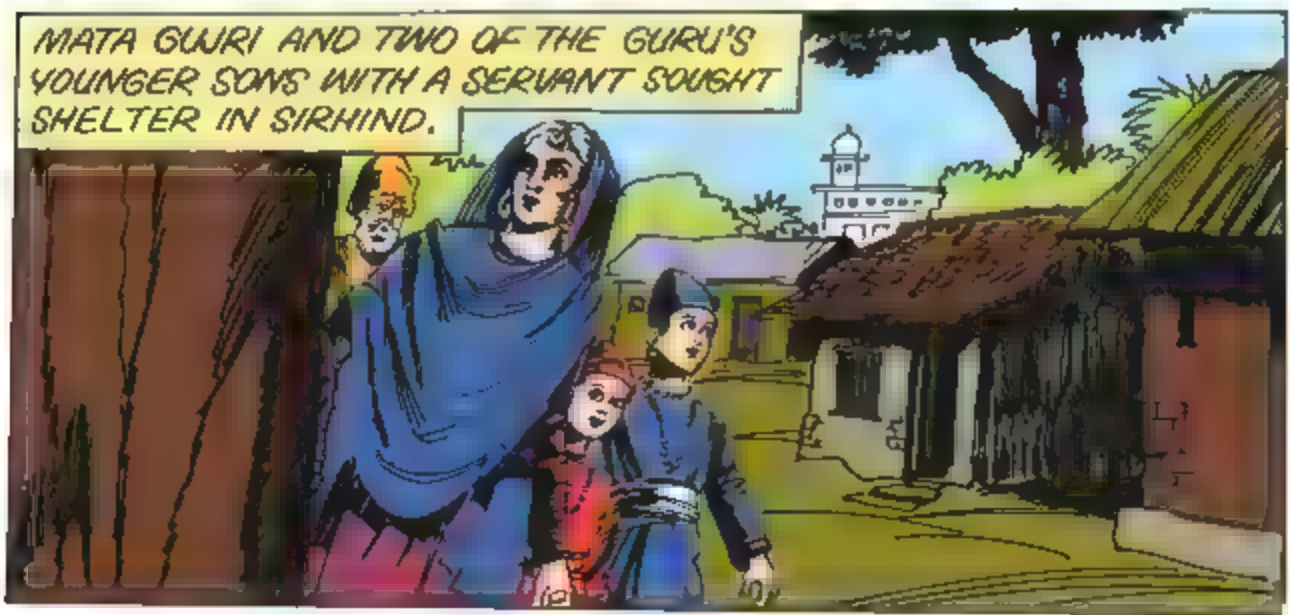


WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED, THE MUGHALS ARE ON US!

LET THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN BE TAKEN TO SAFETY. OTHERS HOLD THE REAR.



MATA GUURI AND TWO OF THE GURU'S YOUNGER SONS WITH A SERVANT SOUGHT SHELTER IN SIRHIND.



BUT THEY WERE BETRAYED, CAPTURED BY THE SOLDIERS AND BROUGHT TO THE COURT OF THE GOVERNOR WAZIR KHAN.



IF YOU  
BECOME  
MUSLIMS  
YOUR  
LIVES  
WILL BE  
SPARED.

NEVER! WE HAVE  
NOTHING AGAINST  
ISLAM. BUT WE ARE  
SIKHS AND SIKHS  
WE WILL  
REMAIN.

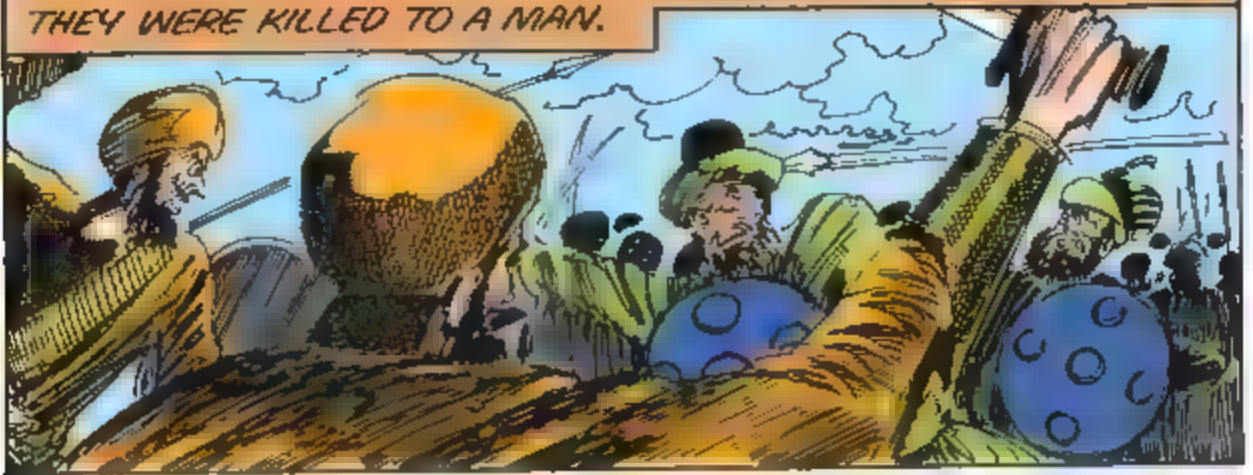


THE BOYS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH.  
THEY WERE BRICKED ALIVE BETWEEN  
TWO WALLS.

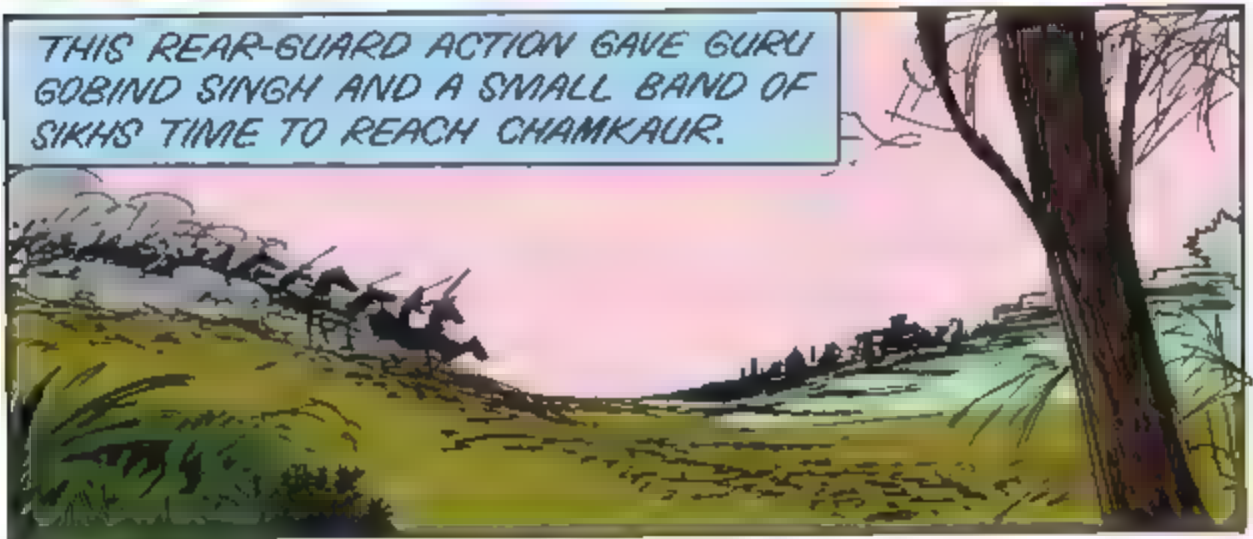




MEANWHILE A BAND OF SIKHS HELD THE PURSUERS TILL THEY WERE KILLED TO A MAN.



THIS REAR-GUARD ACTION GAVE GURU GOBIND SINGH AND A SMALL BAND OF SIKHS TIME TO REACH CHAMKAUR.



AT CHAMKAUR GURU GOBIND SINGH AND HIS BAND OF FORTY MEN BUILT A STOCKADE AND DECIDED TO FIGHT TO A FINISH.

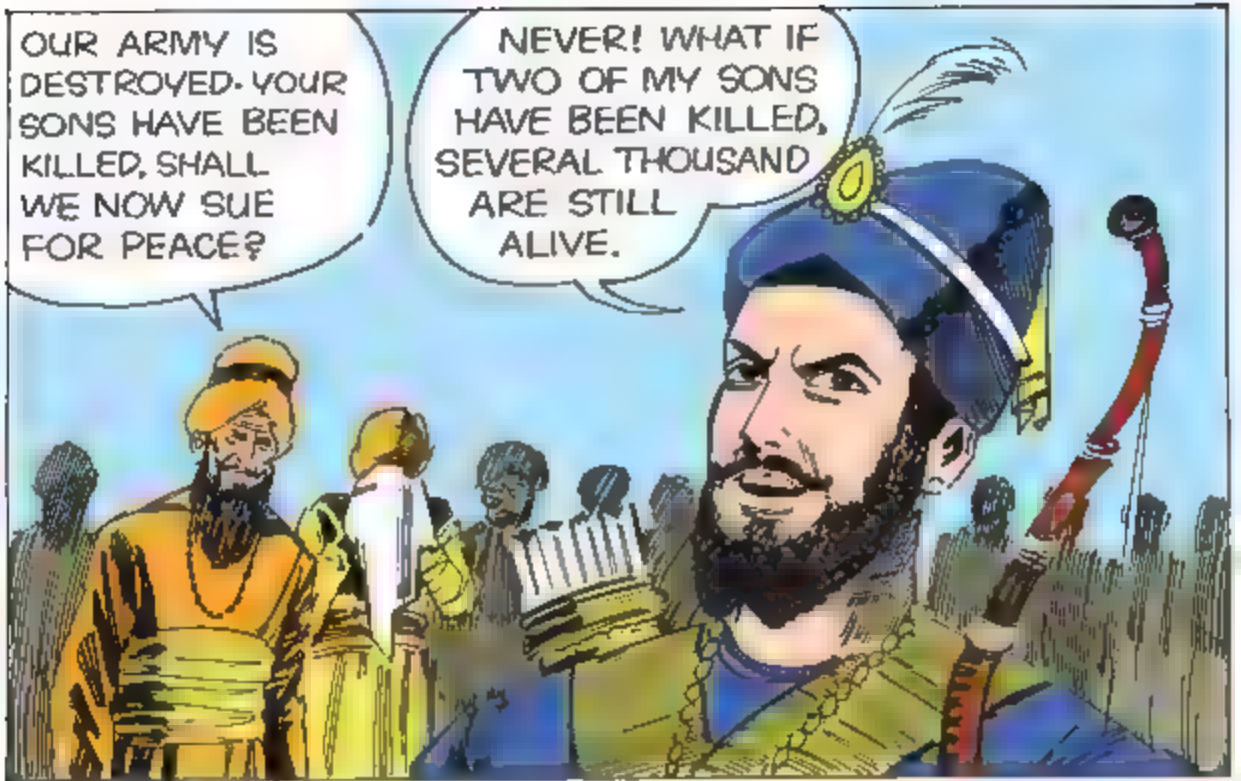






OUR ARMY IS  
DESTROYED. YOUR  
SONS HAVE BEEN  
KILLED, SHALL  
WE NOW SUE  
FOR PEACE?

NEVER! WHAT IF  
TWO OF MY SONS  
HAVE BEEN KILLED,  
SEVERAL THOUSAND  
ARE STILL  
ALIVE.



MY SON RESEMBLES THE GURU.  
WE WILL DRESS HIM IN THE GURU'S  
CLOTHES AND FOOL THE  
ENEMY—SON. WHAT A  
GREAT HONOUR!



DRESSED IN GURU GOBIND'S  
CLOTHES THE YOUNG SIKH...



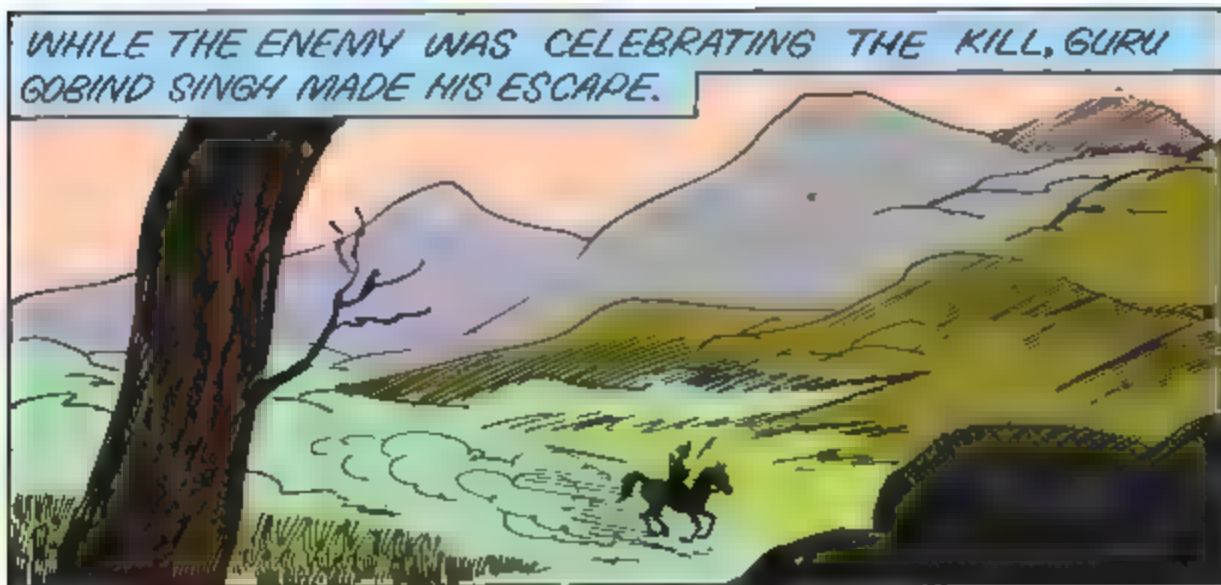
... FACED THE ENEMY.



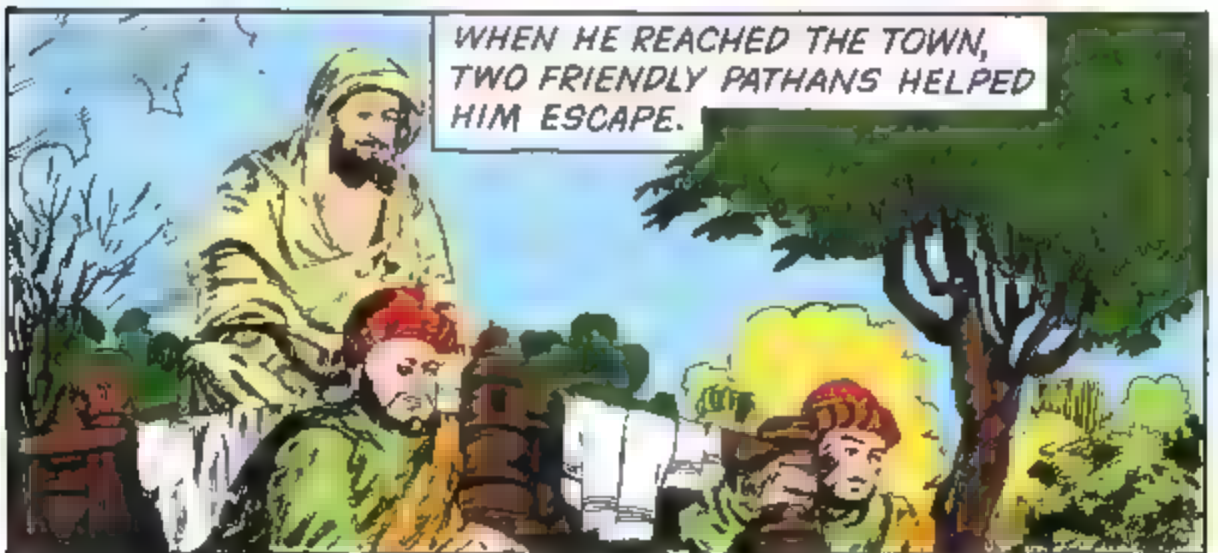
WE'VE KILLED  
THEM ALL! EVEN  
THE GURU OF  
THE SIKHS!

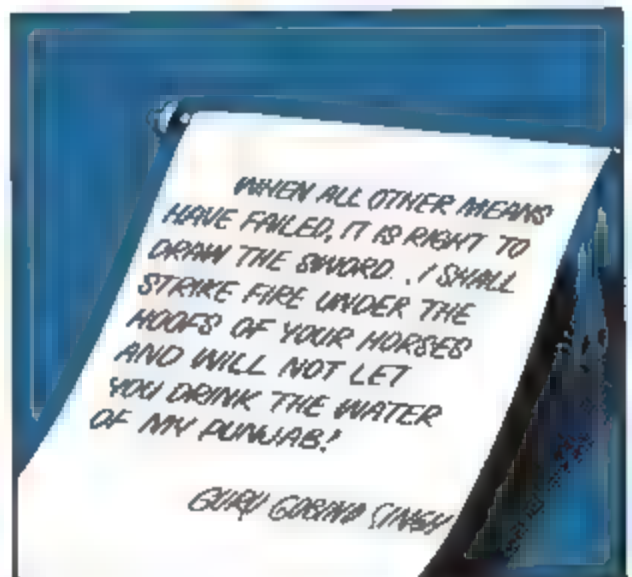
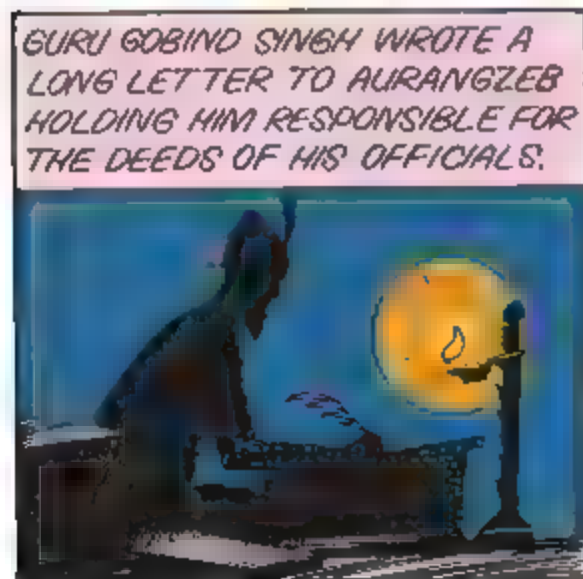
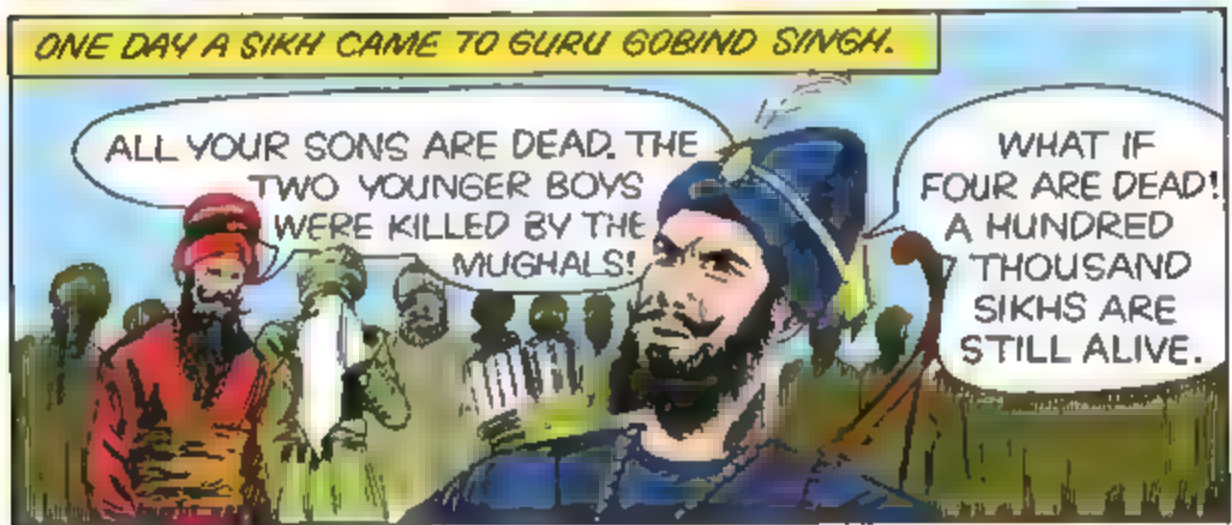


WHILE THE ENEMY WAS CELEBRATING THE KILL, GURU  
GOBIND SINGH MADE HIS ESCAPE.











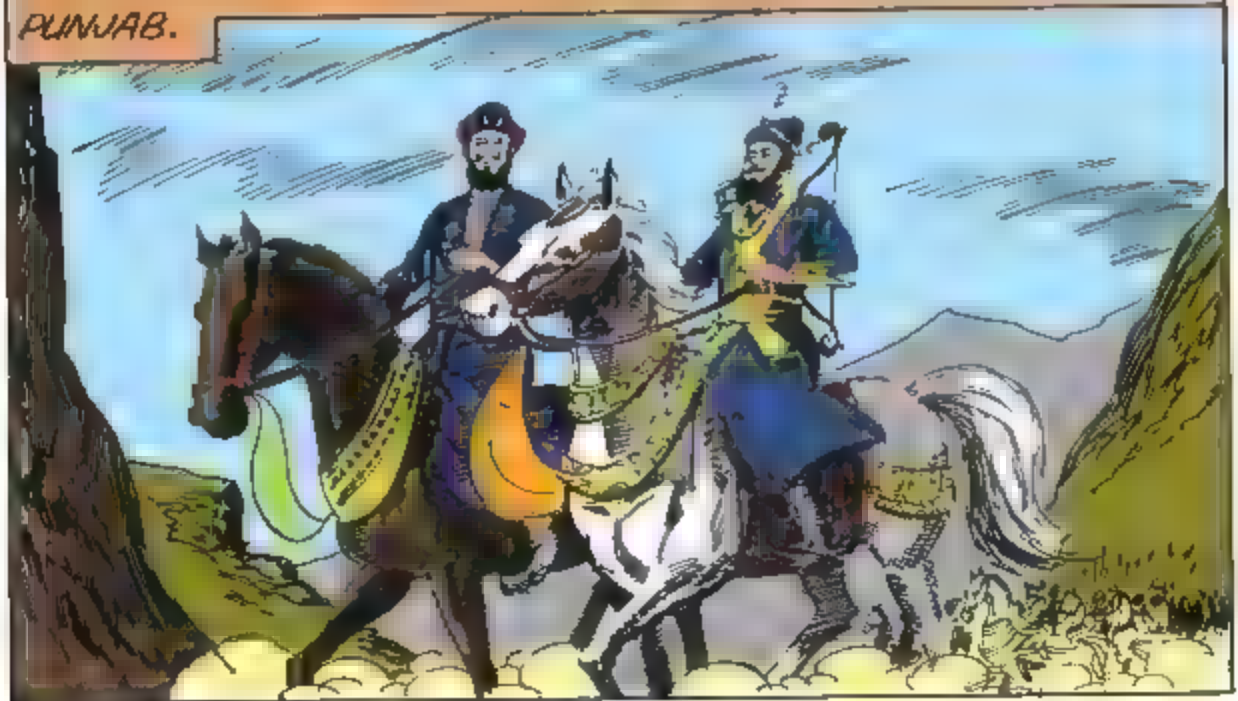
AFTER THE DEATH OF AURANGZEB HIS SUCCESSOR BAHADUR SHAH INVITED GURU GOBIND SINGH TO VISIT HIM.

WELCOME MY FRIEND! I HAVE A SMALL GIFT FOR YOU!

YOUR MAJESTY IS TOO KIND! I NEED NOTHING FOR MYSELF, ONLY FOR MY SIKHS!



SO THE DAYS PASSED PLEASANTLY AND GURU GOBIND SINGH ACCOMPANIED THE EMPEROR ON HIS TRAVELS. MEANWHILE WAZIR KHAN CONTINUED TO PERSECUTE THE SIKHS IN THE PUNJAB.



ONE DAY—

SO YOU ARE GURU  
GOBIND! WHAT HAVE  
YOU COME TO THE  
GODAVARI FOR?

TO MAKE  
YOU A  
DISCIPLE.

I AM  
YOUR BANDA,  
YOUR  
SLAVE.

I NAME YOU BANDA SINGH  
BAHADUR. GO BACK TO  
THE PUNJAB AND  
AROUSE MY SIKHS  
TO PUNISH THE  
PERSECUTORS  
OF THE SIKHS.

YOUR ORDERS  
WILL BE CARRIED  
OUT, MY GURU.



MONTHS PASSED.  
ONE EVENING  
GURU GOBIND  
SINGH WAS ALONE  
IN HIS TENT WHEN  
TWO PATHANS  
SUDDENLY  
ENTERED WITH  
KNIVES IN THEIR  
HANDS.

WHO ARE  
YOU?

THEY STABBED THE GURU,  
BUT HE STRUCK ONE OF HIS  
ASSAILANTS DEAD...

AARGH...

...THE OTHER WAS CHASED AND  
KILLED BY HIS FOLLOWERS.

THE WOUND WAS STITCHED, BUT WHILE  
GURU GOBIND SINGH WAS PRACTISING  
ARCHERY ONE DAY...


...THE STITCHES  
BURST.

GURU GOBIND SINGH KNEW HIS END WAS NEAR.

I AM THE LAST GURU OF  
THE SIKHS. NOW THE  
GRANTH\* WILL GUIDE YOU  
WHENEVER YOU ARE  
IN DOUBT.

BUT  
GURUDEV...





DO NOT MOURN MY  
DEATH! AS RAIN SUSTAINS  
THE SEED WHERE  
IT FALLS, SO SHALL  
MY WORDS REMAIN  
WITH YOU, MY  
KHALSA AND BEAR  
FRUIT!

*AND DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF HIS FOLLOWERS, GURU GOBIND SINGH'S  
HEALTH GREW WORSE AND ON OCTOBER 7, 1708 HE DIED.*



# GURU GOBIND SINGH

'Sat Sri Akal!' Guru Gobind Singh's stirring war-cry achieved miracles. It converted a gentle, peaceable people into a fighting force that brooked no injustice. His band of Khalsas – the 'pure', who wore their hair long and were never without their breeches, their distinguishing bracelet and a handy comb and dagger – challenged the mighty Mughal armies. Guided by the teachings of their brave Guru, they have remained to this day the Singhs (or lions) of their native Punjab.

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